

Message Text

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UNCLAS LUANDA 0433

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS UN AO

SUBJECT: UN/OAU MISSION ARRIVES IN LUANDA

1. TWO REPRESENTATIVES EACH FROM THE UN AND THE OAU ARRIVED IN LUANDA APRIL 15, ABDUL FARAH AND MCCAIN PEDANOU OF THE UN AND AGUSTINE CHIMUCA AND LABAN OYAKA FROM THE OAU. ALTHOUGH PUBLISHED ONLY THE NEXT DAY (APRIL 16), JOURNALISTS PRESENT AT THEIR ARRIVAL APPARENTLY HAD SEEN THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (MPLA).

2. "THE MEDIA HAS PUBLICIZED THE ARRIVAL IN LUANDA OF UN AND OAU REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE HERE TO MAKE AN INQUIRY INTO THE LATEST INCIDENTS IN LUANDA. "SINCE NO APPEAL WAS MADE TO EITHER THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OR THE UNITED NATIONS, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS THAT THE TWO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS INVOLVED (I.E. MPLA & FNLA) ABSTAIN FROM ANY CONTACT CAPABLE OF HELPING THE SAID COMMISSIONS GATHER INFORMATION
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THAT MIGHT PERMIT THEM TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS OR ISSUE OPINIONS.

THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THEIR VISIT AS INTER-FERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA THAT RECOURSE TO ANY KIND OF HELP FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD COME AT THE INITIATIVE

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY."

3. ASKED TO RESPOND TO THE KEY POINT IN THE COMMUNIQUE, THAT THE MISSION CONSTITUTED "INTERFERENCE" IN ANGOLA'S AFFAIRS, FARAH SAID: "EXCUSE ME BUT I HAVEN'T YET SPOKEN WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT INVITED THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE UN AND OAU TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ANGOLA TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY AND TO ALSO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION. THEREFORE I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE INVITATION AND OUR ARRIVAL COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY."

4. THE PRESS QUESTIONING CONTINUED: "WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH MPLA AND FNLA?" FARAH: "OUR ACTIVITIES WILL BE DELINEATED BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. WE ARE READY TO SEE WHAT THEY WISH TO SHOW US, HEAR WHAT THEY WISH US TO HEAR AND EXCHANGE IDEAS ON SUBJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST." QUESTION: "THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS RECOMMENDED TO MPLA AND FNLA THAT THEY AVOID ANY CONTACT (WITH THE MISSIONS), WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?" FARAH: "I HAVE AN IDEA THAT I SHOULD NOT COMMENT. I THINK THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAS UNFORTUNATELY BADLY INTERPRETED OUR VISIT. I'M CERTAIN THIS SMALL MISTAKE WILL BE CLARIFIED."

5. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 16 THE UNITA MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, JOSE N'DELE, WHO IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, SAID THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD, IN FACT, INVITED THE UN AND OAU TO COME TO ANGOLA TO LOOK INTO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE INVITATION, HE SAID, HAD BEEN EXTENDED WELL BEFORE THE RECENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE AND IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THE TEAM'S ARRIVAL COINCIDED WITH THE NEWS THAT A UN/OAU TEAM WOULD BE COMING TO INVESTIGATE THE VIOLENCE. N'DELE ASSURED THE PRESS THAT THE TEAM WOULD MAKE NO INVESTIGATION, BUT WOULD LIMIT

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ITSELF TO ACQUIRING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATION'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.
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